

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, March 24, 4:30 p.m.

Casper City Hall

Council Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Proposed Bike Route along Durbin Street
2. Downtown Plaza
3. CDBG Annual Action Plan FY 2016 – Executive Draft
4. Bees Ordinance
5. River Project Funding Update
6. Alcohol Monitoring Device
7. Discussion of Ethics Ordinance
8. Council around the Table

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Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Councilmen Cathey, Hedquist, Hopkins, Johnson, Mundell, Pacheco, Sandoval, Schlager and Mayor Powell.

Jason Knopp, City Engineer; proposed the City of Casper create bike routes along Durbin Street from Midwest Avenue to 15th Street, and along 14th Street/Farnum Street from Durbin Street to Sage Path as outlined in the Casper Area Trails, Path, and Bikeway Plan 2013. Based on the priorities outlined in the Casper Area Trails, Path and Bikeway Master Plan and further assessment of connectivity and implementing the master plan, the finding is that combining a 14th/Farnum bike route project with a Durbin Street bike route project will provide a connected alternate mode of transportation for a large part of the community and meet the intent of the master plan. Councilman Hedquist requested staff have internal discussion with regard to chip seal vs. slurry seal for this project. Councilman Pacheco thanked staff for the efforts on this project as it lends well with safety concerns of the community. Mr. Knopp addressed questions from Council and will consider all options for this project.

Kevin Hawley, Executive Director of the Casper Downtown Development Authority (DDA), introduced co-presenter Brandon Daigle, Secretary of the DDA, as well as members of the Board of Directors for the DDA. The Downtown Development Authority is currently working to bring an events-driven public plaza to the downtown and Old Yellowstone District. The DDA presented an update on the progress to the members of Council. The presentation included: operational pro-forma, schedule, case studies, capital campaign update, as well as community input received. The DDA is requesting \$3 million dollars of 1%#14 unallocated funds to assist with this project. Councilman Cathey suggested the DDA also inquire with the Wyoming Business Council grant availability, as well as consideration for funding match (up to \$3 million) in private funding raised for the project. City Manager Patterson thanked the DDA for their hard work and efforts on this important community project. Mayor Powell stated Council is unable to take any formal action on this at this time; however Council indicated thumbs up support. Councilman Hedquist abstained.

Joy Clark, Community Development Technician, presented proposed uses of Program Year 2015/2016 Community Development Block Grant Funds. Liz Becher, Community Development Director, answered questions from Council. Staff is seeking Council's comments and questions about the proposed list before finalizing the draft Annual Action Plan. Council gave thumbs up support.

Tory Cutrell, Metro Manager, presented information to Council regarding beekeeping in Casper City limits. Current city ordinance does not allow for the keeping of bees within the city limits. Information from other cities which allow the keeping of bees shows that well-maintained and properly kept bee hives have little negative impact on a neighborhood. By establishing an ordinance to regulate the number, size, and location of hives on any one property, nuisance behaviors can be mitigated. Councilman Mundell introduced Deborah Redding to share additional information the process Cheyenne utilizes and to endorse that same concept for Casper. At this point, Council considered allowing bees within the city limits, Councilmen Cathey and Hedquist gave thumbs down, all other councilmembers thumbs up. Second consideration on allowing neighbors to have veto power, the majority of Council indicated thumbs down to this consideration. Mayor Powell discussed input to the language of the ordinance for staff as follows: to follow state regulations, include height barrier, fresh water availability, set-backs, and notification with education suggested in the language. Council majority indicated thumbs up to this input.

Jolene Martinez, Special Projects Analyst, requested Council affirm its continued financial support of the North Platte River Restoration. Ms. Martinez shared specifics on the projects outlined in the restoration master plan. Council expressed interest of a tour of Morad Park at noon on April 7th. City Attorney Luben reminded Council more than four Councilmembers are planning on attending the tour, notice of the tour will need to be given to media. Council showed thumbs up for continued support of this project.

Keith R. Nachbar, Municipal Court Judge, presented a request for Council to consider funding for the use of portable alcohol monitoring devices through the upcoming fiscal year for participants in the Alcohol Court Program. The Court requests initial funding of \$60,000 for the upcoming fiscal year to continue the enhanced monitoring program after the Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming (PMO) grant money is exhausted. It is anticipated that much of the PMO grant money will be exhausted in the current fiscal year. Based on our projections and selection criteria, the requested amount of \$60,000 should carry the program through the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015. Council voiced thumbs up for support.

Chapter 2.60, Public Service Code of Ethics, was presented by Councilman Johnson for further discussion of Ethics Ordinance. Councilman Johnson has concern with regards to the process of removing a member of Council as there doesn't seem to be an appeals process. City Attorney Luben shared the Administrative Procedures Act current process and answered Council's inquiries on additional options. Mayor Powell suggested review of the vague language that could present problems. City Attorney Luben confirmed the Ordinance language could be rewritten to reflect the true intent of the entire code. Council gave thumbs up for staff

to review the language for recommendations to edit. Council took a second consideration as to requesting City Attorney to propose an alternative option that involves a recall election. Majority of Council gave thumbs down.

Council reviewed One Cent Community Projects for reconsideration of those that did not pass. After discussion on each of the proposals, Council will reconsider the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra and Big Brothers/Big Sisters requests. Councilman Hopkins discussed for future consideration on funding requests that tax documents be required as part of the process.

Councilman Hedquist left the meeting at this point.

Councilmembers reported updates for each of their respective board meetings.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CASPER, WYOMING
A Municipal Corporation

V. H. McDonald
City Clerk

Charlie Powell
Mayor